

IN THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete listing of the claims, and replaces all earlier versions and listings:

1. (canceled)
2. (previously presented): A surgically-implantable object that has a connector element, said object being shaped to serve as a rhinoplastic augment, having an augmenting surface having a predetermined shape to be imparted to external tissue of the patient from a position at which the augment is implanted within the patient, said rhinoplastic augment being one of a button, a dorsal augment, a unilateral tip, a bilateral tip, a pair of tips with a Y-connector joined to the tips, a nasal vault reconstruction module, a heart-shaped augment, a septal perforation module and a mesh element, and said connector element including an element selected from the group consisting of (1) a female connector element and (2) a male connector element, said male and female connector elements being respectively shaped such as to be snappingly attachable to each other.
3. (previously presented): A surgically-implantable object according to Claim 2, wherein said rhinoplastic augment is a button.
4. (withdrawn): A surgically-implantable object according to Claim 2, wherein said rhinoplastic augment is a dorsal augment.
5. (withdrawn): A surgically-implantable object according to Claim 4, wherein said dorsal augment has a nipple, medially located, as said connector element.

6. (withdrawn): A surgically-implantable object according to Claim 4, wherein said dorsal augment has a nipple, inferiorly located, as said connector element.

7. (withdrawn): A surgically-implantable object according to Claim 2, wherein said augment is a tip.

8. (withdrawn): A surgically-implantable object according to Claim 2, wherein said rhinoplastic augment is a bilateral tip.

9. (withdrawn): A surgically-implantable object according to Claim 2, wherein said rhinoplastic augment includes two tips and a Y-shaped strut connected to said two tips.

10. (withdrawn): A surgically-implantable object according to Claim 2, wherein said rhinoplastic augment is a heart-shaped augment.

11. (withdrawn): A surgically-implantable object according to Claim 2, wherein said rhinoplastic augment is a nasal vault reconstruction module.

12. (withdrawn): A surgically-implantable object according to Claim 2, wherein said rhinoplastic augment is a septal perforation module.

13. (currently amended): A surgically implantable strut that has at least one portion lying in a first plane and extending in a first direction, said portion having a plurality of through-openings formed in it and arranged adjacent to each other in a row that extends in said first direction, said through-openings extending through said strut in a

direction perpendicular to said plane and being formed such as to increase the ease with which said strut can be bent in at least one direction transverse to said first direction, and said portion having at least one connector element, said connector element including an element selected from the group consisting of (1) a female connector element and (2) a male connector element, said male and female connector elements being respectively shaped such as to be snappingly attachable to each other, and said female connector element comprising material extending from said strut in a second direction that is perpendicular to said first direction and to said plane and defining a receptacle exhibiting a degree of resilience and at least a portion of which extends from said plane, and said male connector element comprising material having a shape and size to be received snappingly in such receptacle.

14. (previously presented): A strut according to Claim 13, having at least one said female connector element.

15. (previously presented): A strut according to Claim 13, having at least one said male connector element.

16. (previously presented): A strut according to Claim 14, also having at least one plain hole as one of said through-openings.

17. (previously presented): A strut according to Claim 15, also having at least one plain hole as one of said through-openings.

18. (canceled)

19. (previously presented): A surgical kit for rhinoplasty, including at least first and second surgical implants each having a respective connector element, one of said surgical implants comprising a strut that has at least one portion extending in a first direction, said portion having a plurality of through-openings formed in it and arranged adjacent to each other in a row that extends in said first direction, said through-openings being formed such as to increase the ease with which said strut can be bent in at least one direction transverse to said first direction, and the other of said surgical implants being shaped to serve as a rhinoplastic augment, having an augmenting surface having a predetermined shape to be imparted to external tissue of the patient from a position at which the augment is implanted within the patient, said rhinoplastic augment being one of one of a button, a dorsal augment, a unilateral tip, a bilateral tip, a pair of tips with a Y-connector joined to the tips, a nasal vault reconstruction module, a heart-shaped augment, a septal perforation module and a mesh element, said connector element of said first surgical implant being a female connector element and said connector element of said first surgical implant being a male connector element, said male and female connector elements being respectively shaped such as to be snappingly attachable to each other, and said first and second surgical implants being provided in said kit with said male and female connector elements not snappingly attached to each other.

20. (canceled)

21. (currently amended): A rhinoplastic surgical object that has a connector element, said object being shaped to serve as a rhinoplastic augment including a rhinoplastic augment module and strut permanently secured to each other, and said connector element including an element selected from the group consisting of (1) a female connector element and (2) a male connector element, said male and female connector

elements being respectively shaped such as to be snappingly attachable to each other, and said female connector element comprising material extending from said strut in a direction that is perpendicular to a direction in which said strut extends and to a plane in which said strut lies, and defining a receptacle exhibiting a degree of resilience and at least a portion of which extends from said plane, and said male connector element comprising material having a shape and size to be received snappingly in such receptacle.

22. (withdrawn): A rhinoplastic surgical object according to Claim 21, wherein said strut is permanently secured to said rhinoplastic augment module by being received in a portion of said rhinoplastic augment module shaped to receive said strut.

23. (withdrawn): A rhinoplastic surgical object according to Claim 22, wherein said rhinoplastic augment module comprises a tip.

24. (withdrawn): A rhinoplastic surgical object according to Claim 22, wherein said rhinoplastic augment module comprises a bilateral tip.

25. (withdrawn): A rhinoplastic surgical object according to Claim 22, wherein said rhinoplastic augment module comprises two tips, and said strut is a Y-shaped strut.

26. (withdrawn): A rhinoplastic surgical object according to Claim 22, wherein said rhinoplastic augment module comprises a heart-shaped module.

27. (withdrawn): A rhinoplastic surgical object according to Claim 21, wherein said rhinoplastic augment module comprises a mesh element.

28. (withdrawn): A rhinoplastic surgical object according to Claim 27, wherein said mesh element is a bony upper and middle one-third nasal collapse module.

29. (withdrawn): A rhinoplastic surgical object according to Claim 28, wherein said bony upper and middle one-third nasal collapse module is a bilateral module.

30. (withdrawn): A rhinoplastic surgical object according to Claim 28, wherein said bony upper and middle one-third nasal collapse module is a unilateral module.

31. (withdrawn): A rhinoplastic surgical object according to Claim 21, wherein said rhinoplastic augment is a nasal vault reconstruction module.

32. (withdrawn): A rhinoplastic surgical object according to Claim 21, wherein said rhinoplastic augment is a septal perforation module.

33. (currently amended): A rhinoplastic surgical kit comprising at least one implantable strut having a first connector element, and at least one implantable rhinoplastic augment having a second connector element, said rhinoplastic augment having an augmenting surface having a predetermined shape to be imparted to external tissue of the patient from a position at which the augment is implanted within the patient, said first and second connector elements being adapted to engage each other in such manner as to secure themselves together without use of screws, said strut having at least one portion lying in a first plane and extending in a first direction, and said first connector element comprising material extending from said strut in a second direction that is perpendicular to said first direction and to said plane and defining a receptacle exhibiting a

degree of resilience and at least a portion of which extends from said plane, and said second connector element comprising material having a shape and size to be received snappingly in such receptacle, and said first and second surgical implants being provided in said kit with said first and said second connector elements not engaging each other.

34. (previously presented): A rhinoplastic surgical kit according to Claim 33, wherein said first and second connector elements are shaped to fit together in a mechanical engagement to secure themselves together.

35. (previously presented): A rhinoplastic surgical kit according to Claim 34, wherein said first and second connector elements are shaped to fit together snappingly to secure themselves together.

36. (previously presented): A rhinoplastic surgical kit according to Claim 35, wherein said first connector element fits inside said second connector element, at least one of said connector elements having sufficient resilience to permit said connector elements to be fitted together into said mechanical engagement to secure themselves together.

37. (previously presented): A rhinoplastic surgical kit according to Claim 36, wherein said second connector element has said resilience.

38. (previously presented): A rhinoplastic surgical kit according to Claim 36, wherein said resilience is due at least in part to said second connector element having one or more portions with a notch.

39. (previously presented): A rhinoplastic surgical kit according to Claim 36, wherein said first connector element has said resilience.

40. (previously presented): A rhinoplastic surgical kit according to Claim 39, wherein said resilience is due at least in part to said first connector element having portions spaced apart from each other which can be squeezed together to bring said first and second connector elements into said mechanical engagement and which are resilient against said second connector element to maintain said mechanical engagement.

41. (previously presented): A rhinoplastic surgical kit according to Claim 36, wherein said first and second connector elements are at least approximately round.

42. (previously presented): A rhinoplastic surgical kit according to Claim 36, wherein said first and second connector elements are at least approximately polygonal.

43. (new): A rhinoplastic surgical object that has a connector element, said object including a strut, and said connector element including an element selected from the group consisting of (1) a female connector element and (2) a male connector element, said male and female connector elements being respectively shaped such as to be snappingly attachable to each other, and said female connector element comprising material extending from said strut in a direction that is perpendicular to a direction in which said strut extends and to a plane in which said strut lies, and defining a receptacle exhibiting a degree of resilience and at least a portion of which extends from said plane,

and said male connector element comprising material having a shape and size to be received snappingly in such receptacle.

44. (new): A rhinoplastic surgical kit comprising an augment, at least two implantable struts each having a first connector element, and at least one implantable element having a second connector element, said first and second connector elements being adapted to engage each other in such manner as to secure themselves together without use of screws, each said strut having at least one portion lying in a plane, and each said first connector element comprising material extending from its respective said strut in a direction that is perpendicular to said plane of that strut and defining a receptacle exhibiting a degree of resilience and at least a portion of which extends from that plane, and said second connector element comprising material having a shape and size to be received snappingly in either of said receptacles, and said first and second struts and said implantable element being provided in said kit with said first and said second connector elements not engaging each other.